U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FEMA-MISSISSIPPI DISASTER NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DR-1459-MS-NR09 May 4, 2003

Media Contacts:

Jennifer Griffin, MEMA 601-572-2496

601-352-9100 (After hours)

Jay Eaker, FEMA 601-572-2498

703-946-2352 (After hours)

JACKSON DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER TO OPEN TUESDAY, MAY 6

JACKSON, Miss. – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) announced today the opening of an additional Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in Jackson. This center is to assist residents who have already applied for disaster aid by calling **1-800-621-FEMA** (**3362**).

The Jackson DRC will open Tuesday morning at the Jackson Police Department Training Academy, 3000 Saint Charles Street. The center will operate daily from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., until further notice.

The DRC is designed to provide assistance to Mississippians who sustained damage during the April 6th through 14th severe storms, tornadoes and flooding. Only those homeowners, renters and business owners who have already applied for federal/state disaster aid can receive assistance with their claims, however. To apply for disaster aid, all that is necessary is a toll-free phone call to FEMA at **1-800-621-FEMA** (3362), or **TTY 1-800-462-7585** for the speech or hearing impaired.

The opening of the Jackson DRC brings to three the number of FEMA/State "fixed-site" recovery centers available to affected residents. The locations of the other DRCs are Central Fire Station, 2500 14th Street, Meridian, and the Families First Resource Center, 511 North Church Street in Brookhaven. The hours of operation will be 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., every day until further notice.

Another unit, a *mobile* disaster recovery center, will open in Vicksburg at the Vicksburg Convention Center, 1600 Mulberry Street, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The mobile unit then will move to the L. T. Miller Center, 930 Lamar Street in Yazoo City where it will be open Thursday and Friday, also from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Any person affected by the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding that occurred between April 6th and 14th who has applied for federal/state assistance can go to any disaster recovery center.